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**Man Charged in Downtown Fire,  
Marijuana Grow Case**

A Los Angeles man was charged today with operating a downtown drug manufacturing and pot growing operation that allegedly caused a fire on Friday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Rafael Sarkisyan (dob 10/07/80) is scheduled to be arraigned sometime after 1:30 p.m. at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center in Department 30. Prosecutors will ask that his bail be set at \$75,000.

Deputy District Attorney Ashley Rosen with the Major Narcotics Division is prosecuting the case.

When police and firefighters responded to a fire at a six-story building at 421 E. Sixth Street in downtown Los Angeles Thursday night, they discovered a marijuana grow and extraction lab on the premises.

Prosecutors said the fire damage was significant. Inside the apartment, police discovered two dead dogs that appear to have died in the fire.

Sarkisyan is charged in case BA427308 with one count each of manufacturing a controlled substance and cultivating marijuana, recklessly causing fire to an inhabited structure and vandalism over \$400. In addition, he is charged with two counts of animal cruelty.

If convicted, Sarkisyan faces up to 10 years, eight months in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.